

HIS 207.02: Topics in Premodern World History The Caribbean in World History: Columbus to Haiti (Fall 2022)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

From Columbus's misguided attempt to find a route to Asia, to the outbreak of the Haitian Revolution (the world's most successful slave revolt), the Caribbean was at the center of early modern world history. Yet its role has often been ignored. This course explores major moments in the region's history over three hundred years, their relationship to wider historical processes, and the impact on the lives of the region's diverse peoples.

This course is taught asynchronously online. You will complete each week's work at your own pace, following strict weekly deadlines. There is no textbook. All readings and other resources will be accessible via the Modules tab of the course Canvas site. Be sure to work through the material in each Module in order and complete everything by the deadline.

GRADING

Weekly Quizzes	30%	Canvas Discussions:	20%
Unit tests (10% each x 3)	30%	Final exam:	20%

Quizzes, discussions, tests, and exams are open book and untimed, with firm deadlines. Grading is based on:

- demonstrating clear understanding of the assigned course materials
- closely following all instructions and clearly answering all questions (citing sources, when appropriate)
- expressing all answers and ideas clearly ***in your own words***, using complete, grammatically correct sentences, punctuation, spelling etc.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100	A-: 90-92	B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82	C+: 77-79
C: 73-76	C-: 70-72	D+: 67-69	D: 63-66	D-: 60-62	F: 0-59

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, August 16: First day of classes

Monday, August 22: Drop/add ends; last day to withdraw with full refund

Sunday, September 18: Unit 1 Test due

Friday, September 23: "Midterm" grades posted (reflecting work through 6th week of classes)

Friday, October 7: Last day to drop a class without penalty of WF

Sunday, October 16: Unit 2 Test due

Sunday, November 20: Unit 3 Test due

Wednesday, November 30: Last day of classes

Sunday, December 4: Final exam due

COURSE OUTLINE (subject to modification)

This course is divided into three units, each covering about one hundred years of history. You will access everything via the Modules section of Canvas. Each week has a separate Module, with links to all the week's material—lectures, readings, maps, documents, Websites, etc. There are weekly quizzes and discussions; the last week of each unit has a unit test instead of a quiz. Quizzes, discussions, and tests are open book and untimed.

Week 1 (August 16-20): Course Introduction

There are two short Modules to complete this week, the first due by Thursday evening, the second by Sunday.

Unit 1: Cultural Collisions and the Spanish Sea (late 1400s-early 1600s)

Week 2 (August 22-27): Contact and Conquest

Week 3 (August 29-September 3): Pandemics and Indian Slavery

Week 4 (September 5-10): The Early Spanish Empire

Week 5 (September 12-17): Legacies of Conquest (no weekly quiz)

*** **Unit 1 Test due by Sunday, September 18** ***

Unit 2: New Processes: Empires, Plantations, and Slavery (early 1600s-early 1700s)

Week 6 (September 19-24): The Rise of New Empires and Plantations

Week 7 (September 26-October 1): The Transition to Forced Labor

Week 8 (October 3-8): Living on the Margins

Week 9 (October 10-15): Seventeenth-Century Transformations (no weekly quiz) **Fall break October 10 & 11**

*** **Unit 2 Test due by Sunday, October 16** ***

Unit 3: The Caribbean in the Age of Empires (1700s)

Week 10 (October 17-22): Piracy, Smuggling, and War

Week 11 (October 24-29): The Mature Plantation Complex & the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Week 12 (October 31-November 5): Living in and Resisting Slavery

Week 13 (November 7-12): Living Free in a Slave Society

Week 14 (November 14-19): The Haitian Revolution (no weekly quiz)

*** **Unit 3 Test due by Sunday, November 20** ***

Weeks 15 & 16 (November 21-30): Conclusions: The Early Caribbean in World History
(Thanksgiving break: November 23-27)

*** **Final exam due by Sunday, December 4** ***

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

This course meets *UNCG's Minerva Academic Curriculum Learning Goal #6: Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities*. Throughout the course, students will develop a working knowledge of the foundational tools for reasoning, including constructing sound arguments, evaluating the quality of evidence, and forming judgments about the evidence, arguments, and conclusions used by others.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have developed skills in:

1. Critically analyzing claims, arguments, artifacts, and information (via quizzes, discussions, unit tests)
2. Constructing coherent, evidence-based arguments (via discussions, unit tests, final exam).

Students will also develop proficiency in the following *History Department learning goals*:

1. **Historical Comprehension:** Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. (unit tests, final exam)
2. **Historical Analysis:** Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view (quizzes, discussions, unit tests, final exam).

COURSE NAVIGATION AND POLICIES

Canvas: Students work through this course in Canvas using the Modules tab. Everything you need for the week—links to all readings, assignments, Websites, discussions, quizzes, etc.—will be accessible in the week’s Module, which will open by Sunday. You must work through each Module in order. You can directly access Announcements, Discussions, and Assignments (and later, Grades) from the blue menu on the lefthand side.

Communications: We will communicate exclusively through Canvas and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. Also check the Canvas Home Page regularly for the latest course information. Be sure to set your Notification Preferences in Canvas Settings so you will receive announcements and other timely course updates via email. Don’t forget to check your UNCG email regularly! Feel free to email Dr. Rupert or Mr. Hunt with any questions or concerns. You can expect to hear back within 24 hours unless it is the weekend or a holiday, or you receive an automatic “out of office” reply.

Time Management in an Online Course: Plan to *spend 6-9 hours per week* on this class—as much time as if it were taught in a classroom. Like all forms of education an online course brings new opportunities for learning, and also its own particular challenges. One advantage is that you can complete the material on your own schedule. But without the structure of regular class meetings, it can be easy to fall behind. You must keep up with the weekly assignments and adhere to deadlines to stay on track. Plan your time wisely!

Computer Access: You will need to use a laptop or desk computer several times a week throughout this course. *A handheld mobile device such as a Smartphone is not sufficient.* Download readings, maps, etc. to a dedicated folder on your computer (or USB) that you can find easily; you may find it helpful to print some of them, especially the maps.

Internet Access: You can successfully complete this course with limited Internet access, but it will take extra organization and discipline. Plan to spend several hours online each week, in at least two or three different sessions. At the beginning of each week you can download readings, maps, and study questions, and view lectures and any Websites; then go through the material offline. Then you will need to get online again at least once or twice to take the quiz and participate in the discussion.

Assignments: Readings, study questions, quizzes, and discussions are designed to help you understand the material more deeply, beyond simply learning facts, and to think about it critically. Make sure to carefully read and follow all instructions. It is essential that you keep up with these assignments and meet the deadlines.

Readings and study questions: Weekly readings include secondary sources (written by historians after the event) and primary sources (produced by people who lived through the time and had firsthand knowledge). There will also be maps and tables to analyze. Study questions will help you get the most out of these, in preparation for the quizzes and tests.

Discussions: Actively participating in weekly online discussions will help you better understand the course material. Develop the art of respectful conversation and work to improve your skills in written communications. *Initial posts are due by Thursday night; replies to your fellow students are due by Saturday. These are firm deadlines.* Aim to participate earlier in the week.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes are open book and untimed, via Canvas, with a firm *deadline of Saturday night*. You are encouraged to complete the quiz earlier. Don’t wait until the last minute!

Unit tests: The last week of each unit there will be a test instead of a weekly quiz. These will ask you to bring together material and make connections across the unit. They are untimed, open book, and draw exclusively from course materials. Make sure to carefully read and follow all instructions. *Unit tests will open on the weekend and are due no later than Sunday. Extensions on unit tests will only be given in exceptional cases and may incur a penalty of up to one letter grade per day.*

Late Work: This course has strict deadlines. You have ample time to complete all assignments at your own pace. *No quizzes or discussion posts will be accepted after the due date*; however, we recognize that sometimes life happens, so *after Unit 1 Canvas will automatically drop your three lowest scores for quizzes and discussions, including any you have missed due to emergencies, tech issues, etc. Plan wisely and assume that you may have an emergency or illness later in the semester. Don't use up all your freebies!*

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to the Academic Integrity Policy: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>. Quite simply, plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit. *In this course you must always use your own words and only draw from course material. Know the rules. If in doubt, ask.* For more information see the page about plagiarism in the Skills and Information Module.

OTHER RELEVANT UNCG POLICIES

Please see the syllabus page in the course Canvas site (Course Introduction Part 1) for important information about policies related to ADA, attendance at university-sponsored events, religious observations, and more.

IMPORTANT UNCG RESOURCES (Click on the links for more information)

We are very fortunate that UNCG has a wide array of excellent services to support students at every level. These are your go-to experts for specific problems and issues. Expert help is just a click away!

History Department: Have you considered majoring or minoring in history? It may be easier than you think! Browse our [Website](#) and [Facebook page](#) and feel free to reach out to Dr. Rupert to discuss how history might fit into your study plans.

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS): UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must connect with OARS. No accommodations can be made without completed paperwork.

Information Technology Services (ITS): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Canvas, Internet connectivity, etc. They know far more about all this than we do!

Student Health Services: Provides free, confidential support for a variety of health issues.

Counselling Center: Has resources dedicated specifically to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on mental health and other issues. Take good care of your body *and* your mind! Both are feeling the stresses of the times.

Students First Office: This is your one-stop resource for a variety of support services to help ensure your academic success.

Dean of Students: Provides information, guidelines, and practical information to support students in a wide range of situations, including crises and emergencies.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: This office has information about expectations for student conduct, academic integrity, appeal procedures, due process, and more.

The Writing Center: Provides useful resources for all types of writing assignments, no matter how large or small. You can schedule a meeting to discuss a specific assignment and also access a wide variety of information and tips to strengthen your writing.